

Memo

To: Members of the California Child Welfare Council
From: CWC Prioritization Task Group
CC: Secretary Diana Dooley
Justice Vance Raye
Date: 6/10/2011
Re: Prioritization Proposal for the CWC's Consideration

Priority Access to Resources and Services for California's Child Welfare-Involved Children and Families

Prioritization, or priority access to resources and services, has been a stated goal of the California Child Welfare Council for almost two years. At its December 2010 meeting, the Council formed a task group on prioritization. The task group's charge was to consider the Council's previous activities and discussion regarding prioritization, and to develop a concrete, actionable proposal for the Council's consideration.

The task group has met three times since then and has developed the attached Prioritization Proposal. The highlights of the prioritization proposal are as follows:

1. Addresses key "sticking points" from past Council discussions
2. Narrows a target population to provide clarity on where and how to move forward
3. Leverages the unprecedented opportunity to coordinate resources
4. Capitalizes resources that already exist—no new funding is requested

The task group proposes that the CWC recommend that the Governor issue an **Executive Order** to guide next steps in prioritization. Considering the operational and political/fiscal advantages of beginning with a key subpopulation, it is proposed that the initial prioritization activities be focused on children and families involved in the Child Welfare Services system who have a **reunification** plan and who continue in the dependency system **post-reunification**. This recommendation is supported by the Council's vision and mission, and by the clear legal, moral, and fiscal obligation held by the State with regard to children who are in the foster care system.

The allocation of scarce resources in the current fiscal environment requires that efficiencies that could make those resources go further be examined. The proposed action would allow for this to occur by focusing on efficiency and thus ensure greater usage of existing resources,